

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G01N21/65 G01J3/44 G06T5/00 A61B5/103 G02B7/28

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G01N G01J G06T A61B G02B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 01/88590 A (CZARNETZKI NORBERT ; SCHERUEBL THOMAS (DE); ZEISS CARL JENA GMBH (DE)) 22 November 2001 (2001-11-22) page 1; figures 1,3,4 page 8 - page 15	1-14
Y	US 6 008 894 A (BLASI RAYMOND J ET AL) 28 December 1999 (1999-12-28) column 2, line 16 - column 3, line 51; figure 1	1-14
Y	WO 97/04348 A (MORPHOMETRIX TECHN INC ; RAZ RYAN S (CA)) 6 February 1997 (1997-02-06) page 1, line 1 - line 5; figure 1 page 5, line 8 - line 20 page 9, line 35 - page 10, line 18 ----- -/--	1-14

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

17 September 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

07/10/2004

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>YEO T T E ET AL: "Autofocusing for tissue microscopy" IMAGE AND VISION COMPUTING UK, vol. 11, no. 10, December 1993 (1993-12), pages 629-639, XP002296842 ISSN: 0262-8856 page 629 - page 631</p>	2-9
A	<p>ROCA X ET AL: "NEW AUTOFOCUSING ALGORITHM FOR CYTOLOGICAL TISSUE IN A MICROSCOPY ENVIRONMENT" OPTICAL ENGINEERING, SOC. OF PHOTO-OPTICAL INSTRUMENTATION ENGINEERS. BELLINGHAM, US, vol. 37, no. 2, 1 February 1998 (1998-02-01), pages 635-641, XP000742684 ISSN: 0091-3286 the whole document</p>	4-9
A	<p>PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2003, no. 05, 12 May 2003 (2003-05-12) & JP 2003 029138 A (OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO LTD), 29 January 2003 (2003-01-29) abstract</p>	4
A	<p>WO 01/39665 A (LIGHTOUCH MEDICAL INC) 7 June 2001 (2001-06-07) page 12, line 6 - line 21; figures 1,2 page 13, line 27 - page 14, line 31 page 18, line 9 - page 19, line 22</p>	1,11,12

Information on patent family members

International Application No

/IB2004/050911

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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			WO 0188590 A1	22-11-2001
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